



IMAGES

Vol. 8, No. 4
January 1995

NEWS OF INTEREST TO THE ALUMNI OF REDEEMER COLLEGE

► SYLVIA KEESMAAT: ANOTHER FIRST

Dr. Keesmaat Becomes the First Redeemer Graduate to Receive a Doctoral Degree.

Helen Vreugdenhil (History, '86)

Sylvia Keesmaat has become the first person with a Bachelor of Christian Studies degree to receive a doctorate. As it is a degree from Oxford University, one of the most prestigious institutions in the world, we have all the more reason to take pride and rejoice with her in her achievement. In August, Sylvia successfully defended her dissertation and graduated in October.

Sylvia was one of the "pioneer students" at Redeemer, graduating in 1986 with her Bachelor of Christian Studies in theology. She went on to McMaster University in hometown Hamilton, where she was required to complete another year of undergraduate studies before beginning her graduate career. Sylvia demonstrated the quality of her Redeemer degree as she breezed through this qualifying year and was accepted into the Masters program in 1987. Upon completion of the M.A. in Biblical Studies in 1989, Sylvia was accepted at Oxford; in the fall of that year she moved to England and began work on her doctorate where she worked closely with N.T. Wright, a prominent Biblical scholar. Sylvia's work focuses on Paul's integration of Old Testament tradition, specifically the Exodus tradition, with the Christian gospel. Her research is significant in terms of the way we read the Old Testament and the Bible in its totality.

In Oxford, Sylvia became quite involved with the Anglican church. She says she finds it somewhat ironic that

(...continued on page 7)



► IMAGES

the newsletter of the Redeemer College Alumni Association is published four times a year by Redeemer College, 777 Hwy. 53 E., Ancaster, ON L9K 1J4 (905) 648-2131

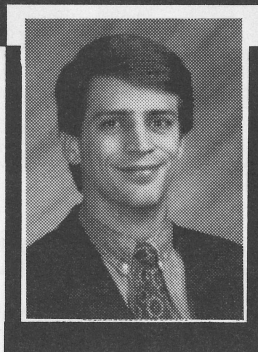
Editor: Stephen VanderStoep; Layout: Dennis VanStaalduinen; Manager: Tim Wolfert. Circulation: 800. Address correspondence to the Alumni Affairs Coordinator: Tim Wolfert.

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PRESIDENT'S WORKBENCH

Lloyd W. Rang
 Alumni President



GENERATION "REX": SANCTIFIED APATHY & REDEEMER TWENTYSOMETHINGS

Unless you've been homeschooling a herd of reindeer in Atikokan since graduation, you've probably heard of "Generation X". The term refers to those born just after the postwar baby boom. Currently, Gen Xers are in their mid to late twenties. They are typically employed in entry-level positions or are still in school and they usually are said to view the world with a kind of snarling despair: they see little hope in a world of rising debt, ozone depletion, consumerism and fat-cat capitalism. Oddly enough, the ritualized hopelessness and relativism expressed by this group is viewed as hip by a culture striving to create lasting identities in a rapidly changing world.

During the 1960's, of course, it was fashionable to be a "hippie", living the lifestyle, growing the hair, flashing the "peace" sign... and so on. Reformed people got in on the act, too. At Calvin College, CRC hippies were found in abundance... but with an ever so slightly more conservative lifestyle and somewhat shorter hair. These sanctified hippies had taken on some, but not all, of the beatnik characteristics and TRANSFORMED them (there's that word again Dr. Ted).

In the nineties, Reformed folks have once again taken on the trappings of pop-culture and transformed them. I know of many Redeemer alumni in entry level positions, in graduate programs or the beginning years of ministry. Many are similar to Generation X.

Call them "Generation Rex," (after Redeemer's mascot). They're a little different from the secular type. They tend to marry (while true generation Xers are single) and they tend to be Christians (Xers are agnostic). But boy, can they despair.

Generation Rex despairs about the church. They cannot understand church divisions and hate them. They feel powerless to create unity in their churches because no one will listen to them. They are saddled with debt. They are striving to understand how their ideals fit into the "real world" and are frustrated when people don't take them seriously. Generation Rex feels that they are powerless to affect the way schools are run. Including Redeemer College.

In a sense, it's a comfortable extension of some of the attitudes we held as Redeemer students. I can remember standing in the smoking area, kicking at the snow-covered gravel and muttering about how the Administration would never change. As students many of us felt that we were

sacrificing our future earnings (in the form of OSAP) to attend a college that didn't value our input or listen to our concerns. In effect, some of us were convinced that Redeemer College's Administration virtually ignored our financial contributions and would not allow students to set some of the direction for the college. As a result, as Generation Rex, now out of Redeemer and facing new challenges, some of us

want very little to do with the place.

(Those of you who don't fit the above description may stop reading now.)

Generation Rex has sanctified its apathetic attitude towards the College with such thoughtful epithets as "I've paid my dues," or "I'm only interested in what people are up to, not the College," "it doesn't matter what I think anyway, nothing changes," "I've got other things to do in my church and local school." Hmmm... sounds like a certain wedding banquet I read about once.

Call it despair. Call it "Holy Apathy."

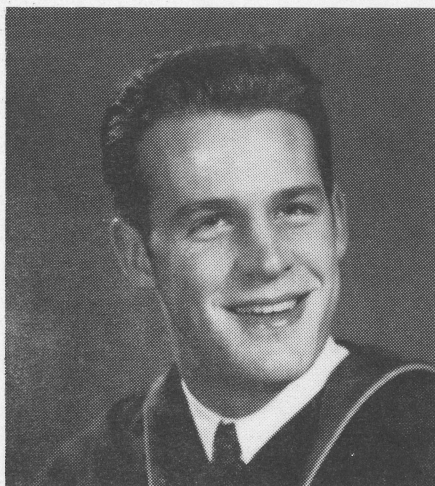
If we ever believed that Redeemer College was a place with a solid Christian mission, that its unique place in Ontario was a sign that God was working great things through Redeemer, and that we were somehow contributing to its mission, why stop now?

Typically, the alumni of a college are its ambassadors, its public relations committee, and usually, its most reliable support group. They return to their Alma Mater for events. They get involved in ongoing college activities. They pay membership dues to the college. They sit on the board of governors and help set the direction of the college. Colleges NEED the input of Alumni: they understand what the strengths and weaknesses of the college are and how those can be addressed.

As Alumni President, I've seen Generation Rex's apathy first hand. I have seen Alumni functions poorly attended, questionnaires left unanswered and have experienced the blank looks of people who are unaware of the Alumni Association and ignorant of its mandate. Granted, we as an alumni board are taking some responsibility for this situation; we have to do a better job of keeping you connected with the College. But, in return, we need your commitment and support. As fellow alumni we share a previous choice for and commitment to Redeemer College and we hope you'll join with us as we strive to make a difference at the school we've all known and still cherish.

When you became a student of Redeemer College, you showed commitment to Christian higher education. That commitment should be an ongoing one. The sanctified apathy of Generation Rex notwithstanding.

Introducing our New Editor: Stephen VanderStoep



A Class of 1993 graduate (Honours English and Philosophy), I'm now a member of the Alumni Board and the editor of IMAGES. In this first issue under my editorial direction, I've chosen to focus on Growth and Change, including the hopefulness which I think these occurrences are supposed to bring; I firmly believe that Redeemer is maturing in 1994, and furthermore, as an Alumni Board we have begun to come into our own as we make growth and change the driving priorities of our Association. Therefore, it should not be surprising

that we have decided to make some changes with our already successful, but often sporadic, newsletter IMAGES.

In September, the Board approved a recommendation from Tim Wolfert to appoint a Board Member to the position of IMAGES Editor. As I have recently graduated from the University of Toronto with a Masters in English Literature, it was assumed (perhaps too hastily) that I might be up to this challenge. In this issue I attempt to find my bearings with you by focusing on the ways in which Redeemer is growing up; one of our fellow alumni is now a Ph.D. and full-time professor, the College itself has undergone some key personnel changes recently, Lloyd Rang challenges us with his characteristic wit, and we look back at an important stage in our school's growth: the move from Beach Blvd. to Ancaster. Future theme issues, on Graduate School Experiences and Personal Debt to name two, are planned and I invite your input and comments in the form of articles and letters. We are beginning to recognize the potential which our Association has and we look forward to being able to work together for Redeemer College. Personally, I hope and pray that our work in IMAGES, by keeping you informed and feeling connected, will help to foster community and good working relations between our Alumni Board, the College, and you the members of our Alumni Association. - SVS

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Next issue: **GRAD. SCHOOL EXPERIENCES.**

In an effort to promote the plurality of voices (and in order to unload some of the work) IMAGES invites your "500-words-or-less" rants and raves about the experiences you had--academic, social, spiritual or otherwise--when you left Redeemer's nest and plunged headlong into the big bad academic world. Please address all submissions to IMAGES Editor, Redeemer College, 777 Hwy 53 E., Ancaster, ON L9K 1J4 or send them as e-Mail to our new account: erewhon!images@uunet.ca.

EIKON

DENNIS VAN STAALDUINEN

IDYLL 2*: WEIGHT AND WONDER

(*from the never-to-be-completed long poem "Seven Days in Space")

(the poet is in space, looking at the earth)

It's all day on the world right now. All day.
The planet revolves all day, evolves through
mornings and evenings at every instant,
and people are waking and sleeping, kissing,
dying, and watching clocks. I watch all times,
with my watch set to "Eastern Standard Time."
*Standard time? East of what? The midnight
moon, the noon-day sun—one around a single
planetary point of pivoting. 'Round
and 'round the axel strand, every moment
turns itself on the spindle of the world.
But the spindle spins on a filament
lighter than a moment, thinner than thread
between fingers—twine infinitely thin,
spun as long as the sphere is wide, twisted
strong as the globe's colossal weight but more
fragile than a million maternities,
stretched tighter than skin on a hundred billion
knuckles on fifty billion fingers on
a world of hands that fold and open
in death and supplication all day. And,
though the thread is new at every instant
of a dying day, it's older than death
by days. A few days older than death itself...
imagine that! It's all day on the world
right now, and it will be all day all day,
every day around that unearthly cord
humming with the tension of a world of
time, and weight, and wonder...all day ...*

ALUMNI DAY '94

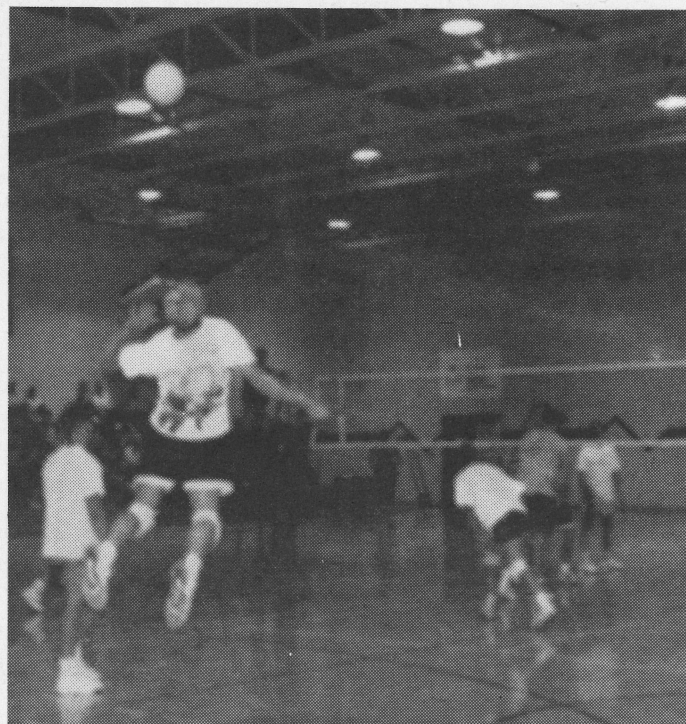
The Redeemer College Alumni Association returned for a day of fun and fellowship on Saturday, September 24. Activities included women's and men's volleyball games against the Varsity teams, a barbecue, and a joint Alumni/Student CoffeeHouse.

Annual Alumni Membership Meeting

- ▶ The Alumni Association held its Annual Membership Meeting on Saturday, September 24, as part of the Alumni Day activities. Lloyd Rang, President of the Board of Directors, reported on the different activities that the Board has been involved with during the past year, including the Alumni Framing program, organizing the Alumni Day, and re-structuring the Alumni newsletter *IMAGES*.
- ▶ The membership also elected Mark Mantel (89) to the Board of Directors, replacing Val Kloet, who retired after serving a three-year term. Mark earned a teacher's certificate from Calvin College and now teaches mathematics at Smithville District Christian High School.
- ▶ The last item of business at the Membership Meeting was a chance for Alumni to offer suggestions, criticism, and other bits of unsolicited advice to the Board. Most of the comments encouraged the Alumni Board to strive to be visible in the greater College community through such vehicles as the Alumni Representatives on the Board of Governors and the Academic Council.
- ▶ The Alumni Board needs to have such input from its members for it to be effective in expressing the needs and wants of alumni at the College. Please let the Board know if you have concerns or suggestions about the Alumni Association. You can contact the Board via the Alumni Affairs Coordinator at the College. - TW

(right, top) Paul Hogeterp intimidates cameraman Dave Van Belle with the business end of his guitar during the alumni coffeehouse. Other acts: Carl Feddema, Marvin Oldejans & friends, Lara Schat & Hanna Van Dyke, and some student acts.

(right, bottom) Terry Talsma about to make an unsuspecting varsity men's volleyball team eat leather at the business end of a devastating jump-serve. The two teams split the match—two games each.



REDEEMER CULTIVATES ECUMENICAL GROWTH

by Stephen VanderStoep

As Redeemer College continues to promote its Reformed Christian perspective, the community is experiencing healthy growth along with some exciting transformations. From the front office to first year classes Redeemer is beginning to offer a more ecumenical university environment.

Newly appointed President Justin Cooper brings a sense of continuity as a member of Ancaster Christian Reformed Church, but he also brings youthful vitality and a commitment to diversity which should prove very healthy for our still very young College community. The Vice-Presidents include Bill Smouter of the Ancaster Canadian Reformed Church, and Lloyd Hack a member of Brant Bible Associated Gospel Church in Burlington. A search for someone to fill the post of Vice-President Academic--being filled on an interim basis this year by Dr. Wytse van Dijk--is underway. Newly appointed Community Relations Director, Henry Dekorte brings a CRC familiarity along with Baptist church experience to the organization. Dekorte, currently attending a CRC, was a pastor in the Baptist church for a number of years prior to coming to Redeemer.

In Admissions, Mark VanBeveren and the admissions counsellors have spent much energy finding ways to tap into the tremendous opportunity which the larger Christian community represents for Redeemer College. He sees this as a

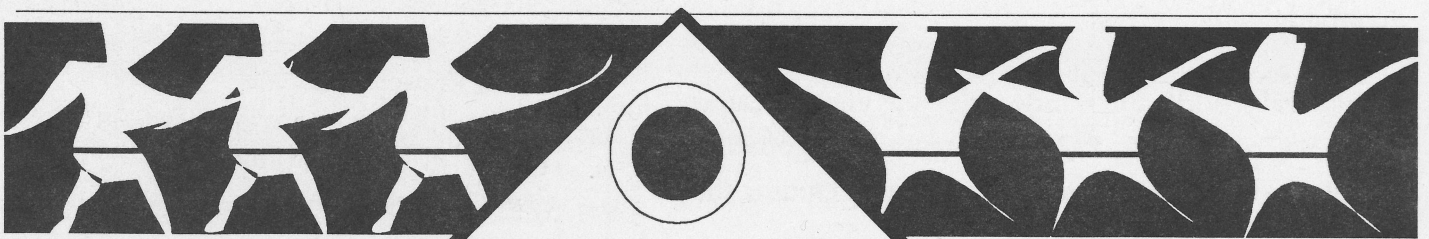
double opportunity--both for the College to recruit new students and supporters, but also for a greater number and variety of Christians to benefit from what Redeemer offers.

VanBeveren says that his office's approach has been a two-pronged reaffirmation of the basis of the College. He says that the College and admissions staff are committed to promoting the full character of the College as captured in its name: Redeemer Reformed Christian College. VanBeveren and his staff work diligently at promoting the rich traditions of learning which this Reformed character offers. Secondly, in affirming the Reformed basis of the College, VanBeveren sees a tremendous opportunity for promoting Redeemer's motto, "Learning is for Serving." The "Service" aspect is especially attractive to students from the wider Christian community and it is the heartfelt aim of the College that in promoting itself to a wider support base the motto "Learning is for Serving" will be put into action.

Redeemer is reaching out to the broader community in a number of new ways. The College is advertising on the Buffalo Christian radio station WDCX, 99.5 FM, which has resulted in many inquiries, and hopefully new students. Justin Cooper has been initiating contact with representatives of various denominations, and other contact is being made with churches on both a congregational and denominational level. The Board of Governors is being expanded to include representatives of evangelical denominations. Redeemer's Education program has recently been certified by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI), an organization with about 90 Canadian schools with strong ties to the evangelical Christian community.

And these initiatives are working. Every year sees an increased percentage of students from a non-Reformed background attending the College: at present, 25% of Redeemer students describe themselves as being in that category--a number which is sure to grow.

If a university education is about broadening horizons, I can only interpret Redeemer's commitment to increasing the denominational diversity of its student body as an encouraging sign of greater opportunities to come.



YESTERYEAR

A look back at Redeemer's history through its own publications and archive material.

September, 1986



At Redeemer College, we were celebrating(?) the opening of our new campus in Ancaster, which--although it was a long way from Beach Boulevard and Hamilton's steel- and smell-production centres, wasn't quite ready for us. (above) The auditorium, for one, was in need of some walls, floors, seats, and other "extras" before it would be ready for the crowds it would one day accomodate.

In the "real world", Bill Vanderzalm was elected leader of the SoCreds in BC, PM Mulroney was negotiating "free trade with the US", and Joe Clark was chiding the UN for inaction.

From Time Out, Eh!

(the daily announcement sheet)

September 5: Married students are reminded that no washing machines are allowed in their apartments as of yesterday.

September 6: The project supervisors have promised us that the laundry facilities will be completed by Wednesday, September 11. Please plan your wardrobe accordingly.

September 12: DANGER! Do not walk through the auditorium area where the construction is taking place. Only individuals with hard hats and construction boots/equipment are allowed there.

September 15: Please check your mailboxes regularly because as long as the residence phones are not working phone messages will be placed in your mailbox.

September 23: Would those individuals who took toasters from the residences yesterday please return them immediately. If they are returned now it will be treated as a prank; if they are not it will be treated as a theft and the OPP will be brought in to investigate.

September 29: Too much abuse of laundry machines is occurring. Slugs and taped coins are ruining the mechanisms of the machines. Those caught abusing the machines will be charged the \$100 service charge fee.

Did you know:

that to this day, there is a hard hat in the general office's coat closet with the words "campus visitor" on the front?

(...continued from page 1)

while she comes out of the Reformed tradition, with its emphasis on how faith affects all facets of life, it was in Oxford, the heart of the Church of England and a tradition which does not separate religion from theology, where she found Biblical scholars who were also committed to this practice oriented scholarship. Her supervisor, who also served as the priest of the chapel at Worcester College, led a group of Christians in which Sylvia felt very much at home, and his leadership also illustrated this integrated approach to scholarship.

When asked about her life today, Sylvia concluded that it focuses on three things, (*like a good reformed sermon. ed*).

Her church continues to be the place where she most immediately puts her scholarship into practice. In Toronto, Sylvia attends the Church of the Redeemer, where she worships, preaches, and serves as Biblical resource person. In Oxford, Sylvia had volunteered at a drop-in centre for the homeless; in Toronto her focus has moved to international problems and through the church she has become involved with the work of Amnesty International.

Of course, her scholarship continues to be a daily calling. She has worked steadily to finish her thesis, but in the last two years she has also taught one or two courses each semester at the Ontario Bible College. In her work at OBC, she has been able to develop her lecturing and teaching skills, and she also has found the opportunity to fellowship with Christians from a wide range of evangelical backgrounds. Twenty-seven different denominations were represented in one of her recent courses. More recently, Sylvia's experience and doctoral degree have helped her to secure a full time academic appointment at the Institute for Christian Studies. She began this past September as Senior Member in Biblical Studies and Hermeneutics (*see sidebar. ed*). Her publishing career is also off to a good start as one of her articles is soon to be published in the *Journal for the Study of the New Testament*.

There is also family. Sylvia was married on May 8, 1993, to Brian Walsh, and lives with him and her stepson Jubal, 13, in Toronto, where they spend summers gardening and bird watching, and winter hours in typical Canadian style, in hockey arenas, cheering Jubal as he plays.

Sylvia says she is humbled by the way in which events have unfolded. Since the age of twelve she felt called to study and teach the Bible. Opportunities to pursue this calling have arisen and she has followed them; it was "almost as if I had no choice at all." She considers her years at Redeemer College as part of this process. Redeemer gave her a good general education in theology and a sound basis for going on to do graduate work. Growing up in the CRC had already given her a more solid education in the Old Testament than many Biblical scholars seem to have, but it was the personal attention she received in the small school atmosphere of Redeemer which encouraged her to use her gifts. Faculty members like Al Wolters persuaded her to do graduate work, and promoted prestigious institutions like McMaster, (which has the best Biblical Studies program in Canada), and Oxford, (where she found the best person with whom to work).

She hopes that her life from this point forward will be filled with more excellent opportunities and people, and, despite having found a church home outside the tradition in which she was raised, she feels that she is still working within that tradition and hopes that now she will be able to give something back to it.

Dr. Sylvia Keesmaat's Inaugural Address

On November 4, 1994, at Knox College, University of Toronto, Dr. Sylvia Keesmaat was inaugurated to the faculty of the Institute for Christian Studies and delivered an inaugural address entitled "Fruits in the Wilderness-Biblical Studies in 1994."

She called attention to three important and potentially positive paradigm shifts in contemporary Biblical scholarship:

1. Recognition of the Jewish tradition as the cultural backdrop of the New Testament (esp. the letters of Paul),
2. Growing awareness that the Bible contains a wide variety of literary styles, and
3. A shift in Biblical scholarship away from existential and individualistic readings to more communal and covenantally faithful readings of God's Word.

Dr. Keesmaat explored the consequences of these shifts in a thorough analysis of Romans 8:18-30, showing how Paul uses the passage to invoke the Jewish traditions of Adam, the flood and the Exodus.

Throughout her address, Dr. Keesmaat's Reformed roots were evident as she stressed the covenantal nature of scripture and advocated a service-oriented socio-cultural reading of the Christian Gospel. - SVS

THE PERSONAL TOUCH

▶ Brad (91) and Jennifer Antonides (Hieda 88) live in sunny California. Brad is a residence director at Azusa Pacific U. and is near completion of his M.Ed. in College Student Affairs. Jennifer is the Special Ed. Teacher at Ontario Christian and has started her masters in Special Ed. at A.P.U. Their address is A.P.U.-Res. Life 901 E. Alosta Ave, Azusa CA 91702 U.S.A.

▶ Peter Bakker (x84) married Liliam Cabrera of Tegucigalpa, Honduras on Jan. 29, 1994. After staying in Central America for several months, they now live in Orangeville where Peter continues to work for IC Controls as a Computer Programmer. Address: 51 John St., Apt. 3, Orangeville, ON L9W 2P6.

▶ Rod (x82) Berg is presently principal at Haney Pitt Meadows Christian School in Maple Ridge, B.C. He and wife Caroline have one child, Trevor Andrew, and reside at 8554 Cade Barr St., Mission, B.C. V2V 6Y2.

▶ Robert G. Boer (92) is working on his Master of Music degree in choral conducting at Drake U. in Des Moines, Iowa. He is also choir director at Central Lutheran church. Addresses: rgb004@acad.drake.edu.US or 1118 27th St. #1, Des Moines, Iowa 50311 U.S.A.

▶ Emilyn (Ubbens 89) and Frank DeBoer are happy to welcome Philip Frank, born August 1, 1994. Emilyn is on maternity leave from Wm. Ubbens Ltd. where she is a Registered Insurance Broker. Address: 100 Waymar Hills Blvd., Woodbridge, ON L4L 2P7.

▶ Ken DeVries (90) sold his delivery service in January, 1994. After six months of unemployment he is Quality Auditor at Lear Seating Canada Ltd. in St. Thomas. He also works with the Christian Heritage Party, and was a candidate in the '93 Federal Election. He and wife Debbie, a Registered Nurse at Parkwood Hospital in London, have a two year-old daughter, Esther. Address: 13 Mandeville Rd., St. Thomas, ON N5R 4H7.

▶ Dirk Kievit (89) has moved to Eritrea after three years of teaching English in Saudi Arabia. He is working as a Missionary Associate with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. Address: c/o American Evangelical Mission P.O. Box 917, Asmara, Eritrea (East Africa).

▶ Bryan Klazinga (x88) graduated from Dordt in 1990 with an English/Theatre degree. Since

then he has been working with CIGNA Companies dealing in Health Insurance. He married Faith in 1990 and with their son Joshua Andrew, born Aug. 28, 1994, they reside at 5660 Lower 182nd St. Farmington MN 55024.

▶ Robert (90) and Cindy (Schregardus x90) Kooy and their two children have moved cross-country to Canada's utopia—British Columbia. Robert is teaching Bible, History and Business at Abbotsford Christian Secondary School.

▶ Daniel Mack (85) graduated in June 1994 from the U. of Manitoba with a teaching degree in Industrial Arts. He teaches grades 9-12 at Ignace Public School. He and wife Elaine were blessed with a baby, James Weston, June 19, 1994. They thank God for their precious child, good job, and new home at P.O. Box 652, Ignace, ON P0T 1T0.

▶ Greg Sennema (93) and Christy (Hill) were married August 13, 1994. They're completing masters degrees at U. of Toronto. They can be reached cybernetically at sennema@fis.utoronto.ca, or in epistolary mode at 195 Wychwood Ave #3, Toronto, ON M6C 2T5.

▶ Mark (86) and Anita VanHelden (Kuipers) are happy to announce the birth of a second daughter, Danielle Anna, August 5, 1994. Mark started a new job in June as an Underwriter (Directors and Officers Liability) with CIGNA Insurance Company of Canada. Address: 900 Steeles Ave West, Unit 403, Thornhill ON L4J 8C2.

▶ Keith (93) and Miriam Verburg (Vanderwerf

93) were richly blessed in July with the birth of their son, Jared Anthony. Keith is teaching grade three at Maranatha Christian School. Miriam enjoys being a wife and mother to her happy family. Address: 303-345 Belsyde Ave, Fergus, ON N1M 2Y2.

▶ Tamara Natash Wieske (Gritter 93) married Ken and moved to Quebec for one year. After dozens of croissants and PQ turmoil they've sought refuge in the shadows of Redeemer. Tamara teaches grade 3 at Timothy Canadian Reformed School in Hamilton. Address: 1765 Sawmill Rd., R.R. #2 Caledonia, ON N0A 1A0.

▶ John and Carol Vanderstoep (Herrewynen 'x84) were blessed with a baby girl, Kristin Alyssee, August 2, 1994, & elder daughter Erin is thrilled with her new sister. John is studying for the ministry at Reformed Bible College. John and Carol work part-time for a church in the area.

IN MEMORIAM

▶ The Redeemer Community lost one of its own Friday Dec 2, 1994. The Lord took to himself Christina Bos of Waterdown, Ontario. Christa was a student at Redeemer for a short time before going on to much success as a medical student and interning M.D. She is missed by a great number of friends and family, but her memory, as someone who strove to serve her Saviour, will live on as an example to all who knew her until that day when we will meet again.

NEWS OF INTEREST

Name _____

Class _____

Address _____

City _____ Postal Code _____

Phone (____) _____ E-Mail (?) _____

Do you want your address published? ☐ Yes ☐ No

News of interest _____
